October, 2019

An auspicious start to our sidewalk initiative, a travel change to an historic lane, celebrating the life of a little resident who left too soon, and other developments marked September, with a busy October ahead.

First, however, we want to acknowledge the passing of two volunteer leaders whose impact will be felt years into the future.

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**Bill Cigliano, 89, and Tom Pallone, 66.** were both past captains of our all-volunteer Emergency Medical Service, and life members of the EMS and Fire Department. While nearly a generation apart, they shared a devotion to responding to those in need.

Captain Cigliano was a charter member of the EMS, and for years handled its fund raising efforts. Many remember him as a supervisor for the US Postal Service in Little Silver.

Captain Pallone was a mentor to many EMS members, and as an NYC paramedic spent 10 straight days after the Twin Towers attacks in downtown Manhattan. He also served Little Silver as chaplain to its Police Department, EMS and Fire Department.

Tom, an Eagle Scout and past Scout volunteer, had recently moved to Arkansas, and already was a member of the Grassy Knob Fire Department, and about to become its president.

Both men, who passed in late August, led exemplary lives of service, especially to their hometown and its residents. We miss them, and extend condolences to their many friends, colleagues and family members.

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Residents also gathered on our playing fields in September to remember Maeve Behan and support her family. Maeve the Brave was not quite four when she passed away two years ago.

Our area softball players, student singers, a police honor guard, Chef Pete Roskowinski, and others pitched in to make the charitable tournament, coordinated by Doug Glassmacher, a success. It was a blue-sky day filled with fun and the occasional passing butterfly – which Maeve loved.

Look for a small statue of a child reaching out to a butterfly to be placed in a garden adjacent to the Sickles Park playground, coming soon to commemorate Maeve – with space to recognize all our littlest angels.

We thank Maeve’s mom and dad, Mark and Heather, for their efforts, along with those of Mr. Glassmacher, and Behan family friends and supporters, for helping to bring the charitable tournament and memorial garden to fruition.

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Looking ahead, the **Borough’s sidewalk initiative** kicked off in September and will continue into October with the replacement or reconstruction of the sidewalks on the western (southbound) side of **Branch Avenue**.

Please obey any traffic alerts or detours accompanying the work.

The sidewalks (and limited curbing) are funded with a 50-percent interest-free loan through a state agency, and the Borough plans to continue to seek funding through that program to finance the construction of a new sidewalk on the north end of **Prospect Avenue**, completing the walking link from downtown all the way to Harding Road.

Additional sidewalk improvements are planned, some seeking funding through grant applications as well. A link to a story with more details about the initiative is on the
 borough’s website. The near-term focus is on those sidewalks on main walking routes to the train station, to our schools, and to the downtown area.

As different aspects of the project proceed over the next two years, the Borough will be contacting residents living along the affected routes to discuss specific aspects of the plans and to address any concerns.

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Also coming in October will be a change to Church Lane, a narrow byway running between Rumson Road and Church Street. Presently a two-way road, the Borough Council has passed an ordinance making it one way, from Church Street to Rumson Road.

The change, which includes a reduction in the speed limit to 15 mph on this very narrow road, was made with the input of area residents, our engineer, and our police department after safety concerns were raised.

Signage is likely to be installed in the coming weeks, and an alert and other reminders will be sent out advising of the change.

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Speaking of alerts, the devastation wrought by recent hurricanes and tropical storms down south reminds us of the risks that come with coastal living. In the event we have such an emergency (or any emergency) here, you must be signed up with our Code Red emergency system to receive phone, email and text emergency notification and instructions.

If you’re not signed up, or to update your contact information, go to littlesilver.org and click on Emergency Services at the top of the page, or call borough hall for assistance. Also known as the Two River Alert System, Code Red is the best way to stay abreast of emergency notifications.

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Next, the annual Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Fire Department and EMS, is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, to be followed by service of donuts and cider at the Firehouse. Line up is at the Rumson Road tennis courts at 12:30 p.m. The rain date is October 27.

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And the Parker Homestead 1665 Inc., the charitable volunteer group caring for the Homestead, has a trailer cleanout day on Saturday, October 19, from 9-12 (historical surprises sure to be found). On October 27, from 1-4, the Homestead will celebrate the fall apple harvest with colonial kids’ games on the lawn, seasonal decorations, and live music on the porch, with a special presentation, Jersey Lightning – the Story of Laird’s Applejack, to be given by Lisa Laird Dunn from 2-3. Sickles apple cider donuts with Laird’s Applejack icing!

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And speaking of clean up, as the leaves start to come down, keep leaves separate from limbs and brush when putting that material to the curb. Leaves are recyclable and go to a different facility than limbs and brush, and Public Works can refuse to pick up combined piles, so please do your part.

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On behalf of the governing body, we wish you all a happy and healthy Fall season. In closing, please call borough hall with any concerns, or contact me directly by calling my home phone at (732) 576-8595, or emailing me at bobneff80@gmail.com.